

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-27 are pending in the subject application. By the instant amendment, independent claim 15 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17, which is, in turn, cancelled. Claims 1, 15, and 20 are independent.

Claims 1-16 and 18-27 are presented to the Examiner for further prosecution on the merits.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office action, claims 15-18 and 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,025,442 to Yaron (hereinafter “the Yaron reference”), and claims 1-14, 19-21, 26 and 27 were allowed.

B. Asserted Anticipation Rejection

In the outstanding Office action, claims 15-18 and 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Yaron reference. By the instant amendment, independent claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17. Applicants respectfully submit that the Yaron reference fails to disclose, or even suggest, each and every element presently recited in claim 15.

Claim 15 presently recites, *inter alia*,

irradiating a laser beam directly onto the ink contained in the ink chamber . . .

wherein the laser beam has a sufficiently high energy and is irradiated directly onto the ink for a sufficiently short period of time to prevent boiling the ink.

The Office action indicates that the subject matter of claim 17, which is now recited in claim 15, is taught by the Yaron reference.¹ Applicants respectfully disagree. Rather than preventing boiling of the ink, as presently recited in claim 15, the Yaron reference discloses the use of a laser to explosively boil ink. For example, the Yaron reference teaches,

¹ Office Action mailed October 24, 2007, at page 3.

By radiatively heating the ink at a heating rate above its critical heating limit . . . the heated portion of the ink is brought to its superheat limit so as to boil instantaneously (i.e., explosively).

(*The Yaron reference, col. 2, lines 14-18*).²

In contrast, the method recited in claim 15 avoids boiling the ink, which has a number of advantages. For example, as set forth in the application as originally filed, the claimed method may improve energy efficiency and increase printing speeds. Further, there are fewer limitations on the type of ink that may be used.³

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the Yaron reference not only fails to disclose the subject matter recited in claim 15, it teaches away from not boiling the ink, and thus fails to even suggest the subject matter recited in claim 15.. Accordingly, claim 15, as well as claims 16, 18, and 22-25 depending therefrom, are allowable over the Yaron reference. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that this rejection be favorably reconsidered and withdrawn.

C. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-14, 19-21, 26 and 27. However, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the application are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

D. Conclusion

The above remarks demonstrate the failings of the outstanding rejections, and are sufficient to overcome them. However, while these remarks may refer to particular claim elements, they are not intended to, nor need they, comprehensively address each and every reason for the patentability of the claimed subject matter over the applied art. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the claims are allowable for reasons including, but not

² See also the Yaron reference at, e.g., col. 4, lines 32-38, and col. 24, lines 1-11.

³ See the application as originally filed at, e.g., paragraph [0049].

limited to, those set forth above, and patentability of the claims does not depend solely on the particular claim elements discussed above.

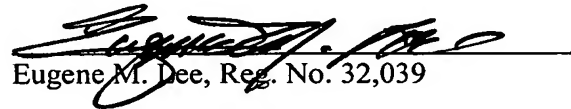
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE & MORSE, P.C.

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Eugene M. Dee, Reg. No. 32,039

LEE & MORSE, P.C.
3141 FAIRVIEW PARK DRIVE, SUITE 500
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042
703.207.0008 TEL
703.207.0003 FAX

PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.